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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

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DATE OF INFO.	[redacted] 25X1X	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	25X1A [redacted]

[redacted]

History of the Plant

1. The plant was allegedly a soap factory before reconstruction, which started in the winter of 1947. The work was supervised by Engineer Shumakov (fnu), and the plans were based on those used for the Moscow Penicillin Factory. The plant is now known as Penicillin Zavod in Riga. *

Installation

2. The new plant section was built as an annex to the old soap factory, which was 50x60x10 meters in size and had a saddle roof. There was a large building, used as a workshop, which was 75 to 100 meters long, 40 to 60 meters wide, and 10 to 15 meters high. The rough brickwork of this building had been completed by May 1948. Two vertical tube boilers are allegedly to be installed. Three or four excavations for foundations were observed in the eastern part of the building, which was 15 meters in height. These excavations were three to four meters in depth. A smokestack 35 meters high was under construction. The foundation for the stack had been completed.

3. New equipment had been installed in the original factory building. The new installations included six bronzed-steel plate boilers, each 2 meters high and 2.5 meters in diameter. These boilers, which are connected by Mannesmann pipes, 20 to 30 cm in diameter, are on concrete pedestals.

4. Other installations in the old building included an apparatus consisting of a round, cast iron pole, about 1 meter high and 15 cm in diameter, set on a cast iron base 2 meters square. This base had a thickness of about 2 cm, but gradually thickened toward the center. A cast iron disk, 2.2 meters in diameter and 1.5 to 2 cm thick, was mounted on this pole. Another disk of the same size rotated upon this plate. Between the two disks were rolls which radiated from the center pole. The upper disk had small radial compartments subdivided into smaller ones by partitions. These compartments were used to hold test tubes. It was noted that 400 tubes were placed on one disk.

   a. When the disk had been filled with tubes a light metal dome, 10 cm

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high, and with the same diameter as the disk, was placed over the disk. Compartments on the inside of the dome correspond with those on the disk, thus assuring a close fit over the tubes. The dome was secured with 6 to 8 straps which passed below the disk. An electric motor of 20 to 25 HP, installed on the base plate, rotated the upper disk by means of a cogwheel and an axis within the pole.

b. Before being placed in the compartments the test tubes were filled with a liquid as clear as water but heavier. When the tubes were shaken the liquid acquired the appearance of glycerin, looking like a sluggish mass. The agitation of the tubes continued for 15 to 20 minutes, when the dome was lifted and the tubes removed. The treatment drastically changed the appearance of the contents of the tubes. In some of the tubes the upper layer turned milky, while the volume of the liquid decreased. In other tubes the volume decreased but the liquid was no longer viscous. In a third reaction the liquid became almost solid and the volume decreased considerably.

c. After completion of this agitating process the tubes were placed on shelves in several small windowless rooms which the Soviets called thermostats. There were several of these rooms on the first floor of the old building. The rooms, which were 2x2 meters in size, were lined with a kind of asbestos and were equipped with large radiators such as are used in steam heating systems. Two chambers were in operation and four or five were under construction.

5. There was a laboratory on the first floor of the old building. This installation consisted of three sections which were separated by glass partitions. There were additional rooms which were still being furnished. The equipment being installed in some rooms included refrigerators.

6. The transformer station was originally equipped with only one transformer. Two additional oil transformers (Oeltrafo's; sic) were installed in April 1948. Sufficient space remained for the installation of two more transformers.

7. A tank 2 meters in diameter was installed in the yard. One informant told source that the tank was for chemical-technical products, rather than for gasoline. At the front part of the tank were two flanges to which pipes had not yet been connected. A large pipe socket was on top of the tank. Men were working on a pipeline from the boiler to the workshop; this line was of bronzed-steel pipe, 15 to 20 cm in diameter, which was laid in a walled ditch 50 cm deep.

8. Excavations for a new building, 35x15 meters, were started in April-May 1948.

9. Workshops were in the basement of the administration building. Administration offices were on the ground floor, the kitchen and messhall were on the second floor, and living quarters were on the third floor.

Employees

10. Germans employed in a supervisory capacity included Engineer Willi Schmidt and Engineer Wolff (fnu). One Heidemann (fnu) was the Latvian foreman. Fifty persons, including 25 women, were employed in the production department and in the laboratory. Many of these employees had been repatriated from the United States and Great Britain. One Latvian, one Soviet, and 15 PWs were employed in the workshop. Other employees included 15 to 20 Latvians and Soviets in administration and 100 to 150 PWs in construction work. All work was done in one daytime shift.

Production

11. The total amount of production was unknown. Although production was slight at the time of observation, it is alleged that the entire Baltic area is supplied by the plant.

12. It was said that a new type of penicillin would soon be produced. This penicillin was allegedly developed in Moscow and has characteristics considerably superior to conventional penicillin.

13. No accurate information is available on the kind of raw materials used. The only incoming shipments observed were 25 to 30-liter demijohns filled with a clear liquid similar to water.

Supply of Electricity

14. Electricity came from the Riga power plant. The current was channeled through underground cables to the transformer station. Only one transformer was in operation in 1948. The transmission of power was bad and there were frequent breakdowns that lasted from 2 to 3 hours.

Transportation Facilities

15. There were no railroad spur tracks. In April 1948 two 5-ton cranes were installed at the Dvina (Daugava) River, near the plant. Five-ton trucks equipped with tipping devices were supplied by an auto base in Riga for plant shipments. **

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*[redacted] Comment. See annex for sketch showing layout of Riga Penicillin plant.

25X1A **[redacted]nt. Report supplements previous information. See [redacted] The pinpointing of the location given in this previous report is corrected and given more exactly. There is a naval school with a 200-meter front facing the plant; below the plant is a small bridge to the island, crossing the Dvina River arm, which is about 60 to 80 meters wide. an anatomy laboratory and a church are also near the plant. This information places the plant area about 800 meters further east than was previously reported.

1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.